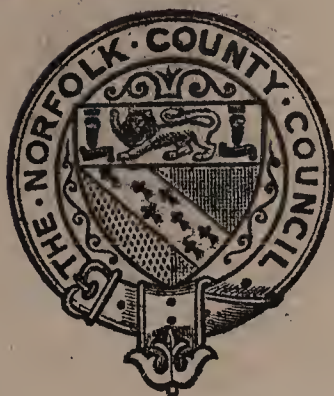


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COUNTY OF NORFOLK



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE

COUNTY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. T. C. NASH, M.D., EDIN., D.P.H., CAMB.



FOR THE YEAR

1924

PUBLIC HEALTH, MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE, AND TUBERCULOSIS COMMITTEES.

Public Health Committee.

Chairman : MR. DANIEL DAVISON.

Members : Arnett, J. A. Gooch, E. G.
Astley, Major D. G. Harvey, Herbert
Beck, G. W. *Hewitt, G. E.
Beevor, Sir H. R., Bart. Pearce, Dr. J. C.
*Cobon, George Peel, Sam
Codling, W. G. Smithdale, A. E.
Cozens-Hardy, A. *Suffield, The Dowager Lady
*Day, H. A. (*Vice-Chairman*)
Fletcher, Major L. *Trafford, Major S. W.
Fox, H. W. Taylor, A. Lombe
Fryer, W. B. Weatherbed, Jas.
Gee S. J.

Ex-officio, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of County Council.

Co-opted Members.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Brereton, Miss K. Gooch, Mrs.
Carr, Mrs. Wright, Dr. B. D. Z.
Colman, Mrs. R. J.

Tuberculosis.

Fanning, Dr. Burton Wright, Dr. B. D. Z.
Horsfall, R. E. Young, Mrs. I.

Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee.

Chairman : MRS. R. J. COLMAN.

Members : Arnett, J. A. Gooch, E. G.
Beck, G. W. Harvey, Herbert
Brereton, Miss K. Peel, Sam
Carr, Mrs. Suffield, The Dowager Lady
Day, H. A. (*Vice-Chairman*)
Davison, D. Wright, Dr. B. D. Z.
Gooch, Mrs.

Tuberculosis Sub-Committee.

Chairman : THE DOWAGER LADY SUFFIELD.

Members : Arnett, J. A. Hewitt, G. E.
Beevor, Sir H. R., Bart. Horsfall, R. E.
Cozens-Hardy, A. Pearce, Dr. J. C.
Day, H. A. Peel, Sam
Davison, D. Trafford, Major S. W.
Fanning, Dr. Burton Wright, Dr. B. D. Z.
Fletcher, Major L. Young, Mrs. I.
Gooch, E. G.

* Representatives of County Council on Norfolk
Joint Sanatorium Committee.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK.

<i>Supervising Authority</i>	-	NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.
<i>County Medical Officer of Health</i>		J. T. C. NASH, M.D., D.P.H.
<i>Tuberculosis Officers</i>		W. B. CHRISTOPHERSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D. MORRISON SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., (<i>Asst</i>).
<i>Inspectors of Midwives</i>	-	MISS M. A. FOWLER Miss M. V. DAVEY (<i>Asst</i>).

The Administrative County is divided into 32 Sanitary Areas, including 2 Municipal Boroughs, 10 other Urban Districts, and 20 Rural Districts. Each appoints a Medical Officer of Health, half his salary being refunded by the County Council. The following were the District Medical Officers of Health and Sanitary Inspectors during 1924.

URBAN DISTRICTS :	MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH :	SANITARY INSPECT
Cromer	Dr. R. C. M. Colvin Smith	R. Crome
Diss	„ H. M. Speirs	G. H. Jones
Downham Market	„ G. F. Cross	G. Rayner
East Dereham	„ D. Turner Belding	W. A. Norris
*King's Lynn, M.B.	„ P. G. Foulkes	J. W. Shaw
New Hunstanton	„ W. E. H. Bull	F. Wilkinson
North Walsham	„ J. Shephard	W. Morris
Sheringham	„ J. E. Linnell, D.P.H.	F. Hale Smith
Swaffham	„ R. O. Townend	O. W. Parry
Thetford, M.B.	„ A. Oliver, D.P.H.	L. G. Howell
Walsoken	„ Harry Groom	T. M. Kerridge
*Wells-next-sea	„ G. Calthrop	S. Bloy
RURAL DISTRICTS.		
Aylsham	Dr. H. H. Back	H. W. T. Trotter
Blofield	„ H. H. Back	L. F. Beckwith
Depwade	„ F. N. H. Maidment	F. H. Bowden
Docking	„ B. G. Sumpter	A. B. Nowell
Downham	„ G. F. Cross	S. C. Rigg
East & West Flegg	„ W. Royden	A. L. Taunton
Erpingham	„ J. E. Linnell, D.P.H.	A. R. Tuddenham
Forehoe	„ T. Lambert Lack	A. W. Hobbs
Freebridge Lynn	„ O. L. Appleton	H. Bell
Henstead	„ S. H. Burton	J. B. Panks
Loddon & Clavering	„ H. D. Woodroffe	C. W. Pritchard
Marshland	„ S. R. Lister	J. T. Dewhurst
Mitford & Launditch	„ D. Turner Belding	B. E. Penny
St. Faith's	„ S. H. Long	T. Fox
Smallburgh	„ B. D. Z. Wright	E. A. Dale
Swaffham	„ E. F. Rose	E. E. Brockway
Thetford	„ G. Cowan, D.P.H.	<i>Vacant</i>
Walsingham	„ W. H. Fisher	W. O. Humphrey
Wayland	„ E. F. Rose	C. Whitworth
West Lynn	„ T. O. Hutton	R. Walker

* Also Port Sanitary Authorities.

Administrative County of Norfolk.

SECTION I.

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1924.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	1,303,570
Population estimated by Registrar-General, mid-year, 1924	...	...	...	...	322,410

			M.	F.	
Births {	Total	...	2888	2799	} Birth rate 17·61
	Illegitimate	...	203	170	
Total Births			...	5,687	

Deaths, 3778 (all causes). Death rate, 11·71

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth ... { from sepsis 4
,, other causes 13

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	175 M.	Illegitimate, 24 M.
	135 F.	17 F.
	—	—
Total	310	Total 41
	—	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (Calculated on the deaths of Infants under 1, per 1,000 births).

Illegitimate, 109·9. Total, 54·51

Although the general infantile mortality is commendably low, it will be noted that the mortality is about twice as high among illegitimate children as among the legitimate.

DEATH RATES (per 1,000 population).

	Rural		Urban		Total
Cancer death rate ...	1.51	...	1.62	...	1.53
Respiratory death rate ...	1.33	...	1.81	...	1.43
Zymotic " " ...	0.22	...	0.14	...	0.19
Phthisis (pulmonary) death rate	0.65	...	0.71	...	0.66
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)	0.18	...	0.17	...	0.18

Influenza and Diarrhœa were rather more prevalent than in 1923, but there was no unusual or excessive mortality.

SECTION II.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

In the Administrative County of Norfolk in 1924, 4 deaths were ascribed to Enteric Fever, 5 deaths to Measles, 10 to Scarlet Fever, 17 to Whooping Cough, 6 to Diphtheria and Croup, and 39 to Diarrhœa and Enteritis.

In 1924, 120 deaths were ascribed to *Influenza*.

Tuberculous Diseases accounted for 272 deaths in 1924, as compared with 260 deaths in 1923. The total *Tuberculosis* death rate in 1924 for Norfolk Administrative County was 0.84.

The *Phthisis* death rate was 0.66.

The *Cancer* death rate for the Administrative County of Norfolk in 1924 was 1.53. Yet a further slight increase.

Organic Heart Disease accounted for 564 deaths in 1924, as against 560 deaths in 1923.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs (including Bronchitis and Pneumonia) accounted for 461 deaths in 1924, compared with 395 deaths in 1923. The death rate from this class of disease was 1.43 per 1000 living.

Puerperal Fever accounted for 4 deaths in 1924, all in rural areas.

Other Diseases and accidents of pregnancy and parturition accounted for 13 deaths.

Suicide accounted for 35 deaths, and other forms of *Violent Deaths* numbered 97.

SECTION III.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1924.

The County Medical Officer of Health receives weekly cards from the District Medical Officers of Health showing the numbers of notifications received by them during the week. The following table is compiled from such returns, checked by later returns from the Ministry.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	—	} See District M.O.H.'s Reports.	—
Diphtheria	93		6
Scarlet Fever	548		10
Enteric Fever	34		4
Puerperal Fever	7		4
Pneumonia	145		157
Erysipelas	60		—
Encephalitis Lethargica	12		6
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	5		2
Acute Poliomyelitis	1		1
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	1		—
Chicken Pox	84		—
TOTAL	990	82	190

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Notified.	Cases Treated.		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
11 cases	At home.	In Hospital.				
	8	3	10	1	Nil	Nil

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	Notifications.		New Cases.*		Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1	nil	1	nil	nil	1	nil	2	nil
1 to 5	1	2	9	11	1	nil	12	4
5 to 10 }	13	11	10	8 }	3	6	8	2
10 to 15 }	9	10	5	4 }				
15 to 20 }	19	23	7	12 }	24	23	5	7
20 to 25 }	20	31	3	9 }				
25 to 35 }	37	38	6	7 }	48	40	3	7
35 to 45 }	21	21	4	3 }				
45 to 55 }	15	11	nil	nil }	31	23	3	1
55 to 65 }	4	12	2	nil }				
65 & upwards	3	4	nil	nil	5	9	nil	4
TOTAL	142	164	46	54	113	101	33	25

*All primary notifications included, and also any other New Cases of tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the County M.O.H. during the year.

In the Table given above it will be noted that among children up to 15 years of age there were 47 (23 males, 24 females) notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 47 (24 males, 23 females) notifications of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. No cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify have been brought to my notice.

The sites of lesion in the NON-PULMONARY cases primarily notified among children under 15, were as follows :—

	Males.	Females.
(1) Bones and joints	3	5
(2) Abdominal	7	6
(3) Glandular	7	9
(4) Other organs	7	3

SECTION IV.

TUBERCULOSIS.

TREATMENT.

The County Council takes keen interest in the campaign against Tuberculosis, conducted by the Public Health Committee with the aid of the Tuberculosis Officers.

In 1924, 1772 examinations of patients were made by the Tuberculosis Officers. Of these, 591 were made at the dispensary. 146 cases were receiving Institution treatment on January 1st, 1924, and 542 Domiciliary treatment. 64 of the cases receiving Institutional treatment were adult males and 29 adult females, and 36 males and 17 females were under 16. In the course of the year, another 338 received treatment (138 adult males, 99 adult females, 46 male children and 55 female). 284 of the 338 were pulmonary cases, 49 non-pulmonary and 5 doubtful. 7 of the pulmonary and 2 of the non-pulmonary cases which received Institutional treatment, died, and 35 of the pulmonary and 2 of the non-pulmonary became worse, or 'not improved.' In 219 cases pulmonary disease was arrested or improved, and 37 of the non-pulmonary cases were cured or improved. On January 1st, 1925, 170 patients were remaining in Institutions, and 678 were receiving Domiciliary treatment.

Private practitioners are taking increasing advantage of the Council's scheme. The need for increased Institutional accommodation for advanced cases remains unsatisfied in Norfolk as elsewhere. I have repeatedly explained that Tuberculosis is not infectious in the same sense as other notifiable diseases, but repeated and protracted infection from the tubercle-bacilli-laden sputa of advanced cases (too weak and ill to care much how they cough or where they expectorate) undoubtedly may cause infection

among persons who have to live in the same room—particularly if (as is often the case) they are predisposed to infection. Hence the public importance of the advanced case. Workhouse infirmaries have in the past minimised many of the risks. The Joint Sanatorium Committee for Norfolk, Norwich and Great Yarmouth has approached the Ministry of Health as to the provision of greater hospital facilities for advanced cases.

The County Council has secured 10 beds at St. Luke's Hospital, Lowestoft, for the treatment of Osseous Tuberculosis in adults. A Joint Committee (of the P. H. and Edn. Com.) is considering a scheme for physically defective children. In the meantime use is made of hospitals, and occasionally of the Lord Mayor Treloar Home at Alton.

The County Council provides surgical appliances, and extra nourishment for cases recommended for such by the Tuberculosis Officers, and has approved of arrangements for X-ray examinations of the chest when desirable. For cases requiring home-nursing, arrangements have been made with the Norfolk Nursing Federation. "Following up" is undertaken by the kindness of 200 voluntary visitors, and 1181 home visits were made in 1924 by the Tuberculosis Officers. This number will be increased when another Tuberculosis Officer is appointed.

The Stanninghall Colony at Crostwick is under a Joint Committee consisting of representatives from the constituent authorities, Norfolk, Norwich and Great Yarmouth. The Joint Committee issues reports from time to time. Of Norfolk cases, 19 were admitted and 20 discharged during the year. The civilian is gradually replacing the pensioner, and the type of case now being admitted is one of more active disease in the lungs, than the original cases. The results of treatment have been good.

SECTION V.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The M. & C.W. Sub-Committee meets a week or two before the Public Health Committee and reports to the full Committee. Many matters of importance have occupied the attention of the Committee. Fuller details will be given in the next Annual Report. These matters, of course include Health Visiting, Provision and Supervision of Midwives and Nurses, Ante-natal and Post-natal care, the encouragement financially of new District Nursing Associations and Welfare Centres, the provision of Milk for necessitous expectant and nursing mothers and young children, etc. The Norfolk County Council gives generous assistance to the Norfolk Nursing Federation, considering the provision of Nurses and Midwives the fundamental basis of M. & C.W. work.

Infant mortality in Norfolk in 1924 was 54·51 compared with 58·48 in 1923. (The infant mortality for a given year is calculated on the number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age, in the calendar year per 1000 live births during the same calendar year.)

Welfare Centres.

In 1924, Voluntary Centres existed at King's Lynn, North Walsham, Thetford, and the villages of Blofield, Croxton, Walsingham and Woodbastwick. Towards the close of the year another Red Cross I.W.C. was started at Hales and Heckingham, in the Loddon Rural District. The centres at Swaffham and Wymondham were instituted by the Local Sanitary Authorities. Walsoken children are seen at Wisbech (Isle of Ely) Centre. At some of the Centres or in connection with them, Ante-natal work is included for expectant mothers. The Centre at Thetford is contemplating extending its sphere of activities.

25 Weighing Centres existed in other parishes in connection with local Nursing Associations. At 4 of these a doctor attends at stated times.

Notification of Births.

4854 of the 5687 registered births were notified in 1924, that is approximately 85% of the registered births. 1397 births were notified by midwives, 3457 by parents and doctors. In 310 cases medical aid was summoned by the midwives (232 mothers and 78 infants).

Health Visiting.

Visits paid by Health Visitors during the years :

		3 Whole-time County Health Visitors & 1 R.D.C. Health Visitors.		90 part-time Health Visitors.	Total.
To Expectant Mothers	{ (1) First visits	288		1727	2015
	{ (2) Total visits	804		3247	4051
To Infants under 1	{ (1) First visits	904		1379	2283
	{ (2) Total visits	3965		8410	12375
To Children 1-5		7572		23928	31500

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order.

The County Council's Scheme is worked in conjunction with those District Councils which have intimated their willingness to do so. Large numbers of expectant and nursing mothers, unable to procure sufficient nourishment, have thus been helped in the important early stages of motherhood. I am inclined to think the remarkable drop in infantile mortality of late years throughout the kingdom is largely due to this beneficent Order, aided by the other activities in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare.

The adequate nutrition of the nursing and expectant mothers should result in a larger percentage of infants being naturally fed from the breast. There was an improvement in this respect in 1924.

SECTION VI.

**SUMMARY (for Reference) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS,
HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR
THE COUNTY.**

Nursing arrangements continue with the Norfolk Nursing Federation. Four new districts were formed in 1923. In addition to the grants towards New Nursing Associations, 75 N. Associations received grants from the County Council (1) in aid of salaries to a total of £1,475, (2) for Infant Welfare Visiting £283 18s. 6d., (3) Tuberculosis Nursing £67 6s. 3d.

Midwives.

During the year 128 trained and 9 untrained Midwives were practising in the County. 167 notified their intention to practice, 18 of these undertook temporary or emergency work. On December 31st, 1924, there were 137 Midwives on the County Register (9 untrained).

Inspection of Midwives.—430 routine and 50 special visits to midwives.

A 'handy woman' was prosecuted for practising as a Midwife, 'habitually and for gain,' and a conviction obtained.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The County Council provides clinics for the treatment of Venereal Diseases at Norwich (Jointly) and King's Lynn, and clinics (by appointment) at the same towns for Tuberculosis. The County Council through its Education Committee also provides school clinics.

Hospitals—Small Pox.

No additional provision has been made since I last reported. The majority of the District Councils have no provision for the isolation and efficient treatment of a case of Smallpox.

Fever Hospitals.

Cromer U.D., King's Lynn (M.B.), Walsoken U.D., and Marshland R.D. (by agreement with Wisbech U.D.C.), Erpingham R.D., Sheringham U.D. and N. Walsham U.D., New Hunstanton U.D., Forehoe R.D. have the use of Fever Hospitals. The Norwich Isolation Hospital receives a few cases from adjoining districts

occasionally. A number of District Councils have appointed representatives on a Joint Committee to consider the question of a Joint Hospital. The County Council are still awaiting a report from the District Councils as to the provision proposed to be made. I know that conferences were held, that District Medical Officers of Health met and approved of plans for an efficient Isolation Hospital of 26 beds for a combined area. The architect's plans were on simple lines, excluding any unnecessary ornament, but the estimated cost of nearly £700 per bed, impelled all but one Council to reject the scheme. It is yet not improbable that further consideration may induce District Councils to support the idea of one efficient Isolation Hospital for the whole County—not for rushing in every notified case—but as a ready institution in existence for urgent cases.

General Hospitals.

- (1.) The Norfolk and Norwich, Norwich.
- (2.) The Lynn and West Norfolk Hospital, King's Lynn.

Cottage Hospitals at Thetford, Watton, Swaffham, Cromer, North Walsham, Wells, Ditchingham.

Special Hospitals.

Jenny Lind Hospital for Children, Norwich.
 Norfolk and Norwich Eye Infirmary, Norwich.
 Norwich Diocesan Maternity Home.
 Bethel Hospital (mental).

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS. The Norwich Diocesan Rescue Home in Surrey Street, Norwich, provides for 6 months' residence, and several girls from the administrative County have been confined there. The County Council makes a grant. The Boards of Guardians in the County area also receive cases in their respective Infirmarys.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—The Red Cross Society have stationed ambulances at Norwich, Dereham, Downham, Cromer, King's Lynn, Hunstanton, Thetford and Great Yarmouth, for the conveyance of non-infectious cases.

SECTION VII.

LABORATORY.**Laboratory Work, 1924.**

The following specimens were submitted to this Laboratory for examination during the year :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Suspicious.	Total.
Swabs for Diph. B.	90	751	21	862
Sputum for Tubercle B.	291	779		1070
Blood for Widal.				54
Blood (miscellaneous)				9
Fæces (for Typhoid).				4
Urine for Tubercle B.				13
Urine (various).				52
Vaccines prepared.				37
Water samples.				41
Fæces for Tubercle B.				4
Milk (various)				3
C. S. Fluid.				22
Tub. Dilutions and Ointment Preparations				71
Other Specimens				109

Arrangements.

All specimens in connection with *Notifiable* diseases are examined free of charge to Medical Practitioners, such charge being made on the County Rate. Copies of all reports on specimens submitted in cases of infectious diseases are sent to the District Medical Officer of Health. Examinations made in connection with *Non-Notifiable* diseases are charged for at a reasonable rate, such charges being made direct on Practitioners sending in the specimens.

SECTION VIII.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

County Medical Officers of Health have been relieved by the Sanitary Officers Order, 1922, of the obligation to include in their Reports, a digest of reports made by Medical Officers of Health for County districts. For information therefore as to the work of Sanitary Inspectors, the inspection of places where food is prepared, the condition of Slaughter houses, the arrangements for disinfection and disinfestation, and the action taken with regard to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in each county district, reference must be made to the respective district reports.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

These acts are administered by the County Council, who employ Inspectors, who take samples for examination by the County Analyst, and Report to the Public Health Committee.

The Analyst's returns show that in 1924 there were submitted for analysis, 447 samples of milk, of which 99 were reported as not genuine, either on account of fat deficiency or addition of water. The majority were deficient in fat, as compared with the standard of 3%. In many cases the deficiency was but slight—not more than 1 or 2%, but in one case the deficiency was as high as 53%. The Public Health Committee ordered 30 prosecutions, and cautioned 40 others. As a rule, the results of prosecution are only insignificant fines. The majority of samples are taken during the Summer months, and the percentage of samples showing deficiency of fat in these months is upwards of 20%. The fewer samples taken in the Winter months show a percentage of fat deficiency not exceeding 5% of the samples. 218 samples of other substances were submitted for analysis. Many of these contained small quantities of preservatives.

*The following Report was sent to the Ministry of Health
in February, 1925.*

Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912 & 1917.

*Report by the County Medical Officer of Health, for the
Year ended 31st December, 1924.*

1.—MILK & PRESERVED CREAM.

447 Samples were taken for analysis as to preservatives.

All were examined for presence of preservatives.

No preservatives were found.

2.—CREAM SOLD AS PRESERVED CREAM.

Number of Samples submitted for analysis to ascertain the statements on label correct.	Nil.
---	------

Number where statements were correct.	...	Nil.
---------------------------------------	-----	------

„ „ „ „ not correct.	...	Nil.
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„ determinations made of milk fat.	...	Nil.
------------------------------------	-----	------

3.—Number of instances where requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved cream not being observed. Article 5 (1) and proviso in Article (2) of the Regulations.

Nil.

4.—THICKENING SUBSTANCES.

No evidence of any illegal addition.

“APPEAL TO COW” SAMPLES.—Number taken—4.

In one case 2 of 6 milch cows were suckling their calves and showed a fat deficiency of 16%.

In another case a sample taken from a herd contained 3·7% fat, after 2 samples had shewn deficiencies of 12% and 10%. A prosecution under Sec. 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1875, resulted in a conviction. In another case the owner refused to allow the inspector to take an “Appeal to Cow” sample. Fined £5.

In one of the cases great attention was being paid to cleanliness; in another, the conditions were filthy.

No action was taken under Sec. 4 Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922.

SECTION IX.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Staffs engaged on Public Health work includes: M.O.H. for the County (who is also S.M.O. & M. & C.W.O.) T.O. and Assist. T.O., Inspector of Midwives and Assist. I. of M. 3 whole-time Health Visitors (2 combine some Midwifery work with their duties) 90 District Nurses who act as part-time Health Visitors. Assistant Bacteriologist. Although School Medical Inspection is an important branch of Public Health Work, the 5 Medical Officers, 4 Dentists and 10 Nurses who carry out this work are appointed and remunerated by the Education Committee.

SECTION X.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Clinics are arranged for Tuesdays and Fridays at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, and at the Lynn and West Norfolk Hospital. Persons who have run the risk of infection can attend any evening for irrigation.

1924. Norfolk new patients were treated.

	Syphilis.	Gonorrhœa.	Other than V.	Soft. Chancre.	Total
At the Norfolk & Norwich Clinic	33	38	14	1	86
„ King's Lynn Clinic	11	23			34

Total number of attendances during 1924—Norwich, 1500, King's Lynn, 320.

Also 158 "In-patient days" at The Norfolk & Norwich Hospital.

Number of pathological examinations for Wassermann reaction 399, Spirochetes 6, Gonococci 253, Urine 24, Placenta 3, Total, 685,

Number of new cases of Active Syphilis remains about the same. There is an increase in the cases of Gonorrhœa attending for treatment, but the proportion is still less than was expected, when the Clinics were instituted. A considerable proportion of the Syphilis cases cease to attend before completing treatment. Some are transferred to other treatment centres, but a gratifying number were discharged after completion of treatment and observation.

Mental Deficiency Act.

I am informed that the total cost of administering this Act during the year ending March 31st, 1923, was £3,804. There were 76 Mental Defectives in institutions, 2 under guardianship, and 74 under supervision. The total number of known Idiots and low-grade Imbeciles in the administrative area was 181.

Blind Persons Act.

In December, 1924, there were 380 Blind persons registered with the County Council.

During the year the operation of the County Council's Scheme was given further effect to by the appointment of a whole-time Home Teacher and Visitor of the Blind, and the inauguration of a Scheme for the employment of Home Workers, which latter is operated, under agreement, by the Norwich Institute for the Blind, with the assistance of the Council's Home Teacher.

At the end of the year 162 visits had been made to blind persons in their homes. There were 10 Home Workers, 5 Home Teaching Cases, and 7 pupils undergoing Institutional Training at the expense of the County Council.

The estimated net expenditure for the year 1924-25 was £768.

SECTION XI.

THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

The table at the end of the report is based on figures appearing in the Reports of District Medical Officers of Health for the year 1924.

This is, and must remain a serious problem.

Closing Orders.

I received copies of 4 closing orders in accordance with Section 69 (1) of the Housing Act of 1909.

Houses grossly unfit for human habitation and past repair must of course be dealt with by Closing Order ; but in these days of house shortage every endeavour has to be made to get houses capable of repair at moderate cost so repaired ; the main requirements being to have them dry, ventilated, and secure, with an adequate supply of wholesome water at a reasonable distance, and adequate sanitary arrangements for the disposal of excreta and waste.

Housing at Bessingham and District, and near-by Parishes.

An Inspector of the Ministry of Health enquired into this question and conferred with the Erpingham R.D.C., and certain action was agreed to. As a result up-to-date, in Bessingham some repairs have been completed. At Gresham, 6 new cottages are in course of erection, and old cottages have had some repairs.

Anyone travelling over the County notes a considerable number of new houses. The tabular statement gives the numbers erected in each district during the year 1924, and a total for the Administrative County of 725 new houses erected in 1924. Many new houses were erected, in respect of which a subsidy was paid. Others were built without financial assistance. There has been without question, a considerable improvement in the Housing of the County, but the crux appears to be to get some of the older cottages capable of repair, so repaired. Occasionally, if a particular owner gets notice from the Sanitary Authority to effect repairs, he sells the houses to someone else, and the repairs are not carried out. A suggestion has been made that a grant might be given towards repairs, or in the event of the inability or reluctance of an owner to carry out necessary repairs that a L.A. should compulsorily take over the houses at a valuation, and themselves effect the necessary repairs.

In spite of 55 new houses erected in the Henstead R.D. during the year, 3 bad cases of overcrowding could not be dealt with owing to lack of alternative accommodation. Huts and caravans are not infrequently used as dwellings. As houses still can hardly be built at an economic rent, the majority of the houses erected can hardly be called houses for the working classes, and leads Dr. Burton to express the pious hope that the time may soon come when workmen's cottages can be erected at a rate reasonable to them. Interesting experiments are being made in Henstead R.D., under the ægis of Mr. Christie, M.P. I hope to be able to report more fully on these in my next Report.

Dr. Back, the M.O.H. for the Aylsham and Blofield Rural Districts, states in his report for the former, that although that Council has built nearly a hundred cottages under its housing scheme, that he is unable to report any satisfactory result in dealing with cases of overcrowding. An agricultural labourer with a family of even moderate size is not in a position to pay anything like the economic rent of a cottage suitable for him.

Dr. Appleton, M.O.H. for the Freebridge Lynn R.D., remarks :
 “There appears to be a steady increase of new middle-class houses and bungalows....I should like to see the same with regard to cottages.”

Dr. Foulkes, M.O.H., King's Lynn, M.B., reports the housing problem in the Borough as very acute. “The conditions under which a large number of the working class population live is disgusting and unhealthy in the extreme.....The class of house which is being erected does not in the least degree relieve the overcrowding amongst the poorer population.”

I fear that the great majority of the new houses are at rentals above the amount which agricultural labourers or others whose earnings do not exceed 30s. a week, are able to pay. What seems to be urgently wanted is the erection in most towns and villages of modern cottages at a sufficiently low rental. Two or three years ago I pointed out that the lack of new houses within the means of agricultural labourers, increased the difficulties of Sanitary authorities in dealing effectively with existing cottages which were becoming dilapidated. Some of these are owned by widows or other small landlords who are unable of themselves to effect necessary repairs. It is as well, therefore, once again to remind Sanitary authorities and their officers, of Section 22 (1) of the Housing Act of 1919, which enables Local Authorities to assist the poor owner in effecting repairs while safe-guarding the rate-payers by mortgage. The poor owner should know that application for assistance can be made to the Local Authority under this Section.

Fortunately the cost of building tends to become lower ; public opinion is making itself felt, and I am hopeful that in time the housing problem may be solved.

J. T. C. NASH, M.D. (Edin.) D.P.H. (Camb.)

The following Statement is compiled from the District Reports and indicate the general condition of Housing in 1924.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR—
(a) Total - - - - -
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923 or 1924 :—
(i) By the Local Authority - - - - -
(ii) By other bodies or persons - - - - -
In course of Erection, 31st December, 1924

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) -
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 - - - - -
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation - - - - -
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation - - - - -

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICES OF FORMAL NOTICES—

Number of defective dwelling-house rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers - - - - -

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS—

A—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs - - - - -
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
(a) by Owners - - - - -
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners - - - - -
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close - - - - -

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied - - - - -
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—
(a) by Owners - - - - -
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners - - - - -

C—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders - - - - -
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made - - - - -
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit - - - - -
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made - - - - -
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders - - - - -

	Aylsham	Blofield	Depwade	Docking	Downham	Erpingham	Flegg, E. & W.	Forehoe	Henstead	Loddon and Clavering	West Lynn	Freebridge, Lynn	Marshland	Mitford and Launditch	St. Faith's	Smallburgh	Swaffham	Thetford	Walsingham	Wayland	Total Rural Districts	Cromer	East Dereham	Diss	Downham Market	Hunstanton	Sheringham	Swaffham	North Walsham	Walsoken	Wells-next-Sea	Kings' Lynn M.B.	Thetford M.B.	Total Urban Districts	Total County			
(a) Total	6	64	9†	31	34	88	—	x27	55		nil	30	42	11	67	18	2 p.p		26A	15	525	22	7 p.p	1 p.p	6	5	42	nil	18	17	nil	82	nil	200	725			
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923 or 1924 :—																																						
(i) By the Local Authority	—	24	nil	nil	10	20	—	nil	nil		nil	nil	30	nil	8	} 15	No advantage has been taken.		20	4	} 101	nil	—	nil	nil	nil	29	—	nil	14	nil	} 78	nil	148	493			
(ii) By other bodies or persons	1	36	nil	11	12	28	—	5	31		nil	10	7	9	59				3	2		5	2	nil	5	3	—	—	9	3†	nil				101			
In course of Erection, 31st December, 1924		37	9				24		23				8																									
1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.																																						
Inspection (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) -	466†	59	112	154	44	520	121	67	465	252	196	58	210	2341	50		632		89	438	6274	32	200	97	38	10	35	210	32	73	117	256	114	1214	7488			
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 -	358	41	54	nil	17	nil	121	12	85	226	196	48	190	60	50		430		29	352	2269	15	150	35	38	5	35	210	29	28	1†	230	—	775	3044			
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation -	2	8	9	nil	6	6	1	1	3	1	nil	20	nil	nil	—		1		9	—	67	nil	nil	8	1	—	nil	58	1	—	nil	1	4	73	140			
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation -	19	30	24	93	12	96	7	14	6	nil	nil	28	120	29	26		483		20	219	1226	13	40	82	nil	—	1	nil	17	17	96	25	11	302	1528			
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICES OF FORMAL NOTICES—																																						
Number of defective dwelling-house rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers -	108	20	32	82	10	24	40	14	3	42	10	28	112	15	8		411		30	173	1162	13	100	61	37	4	11	4	15	14	11	—	—	170	1332			
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS—																																						
A—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919																																						
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs -	nil	4	5	nil	2	nil	13	nil	nil	} nil	} No proceedings.	} nil	6	2	10		10		—	5	57	nil	} None has been necessary.	2	9	3	1	3	2	2	nil	—	—	22	79			
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	nil	4	5	nil	3	nil	12	nil	nil				6	nil	10		9		—	5	54	nil		2	28	3	—	3	1	2	nil	—	—	39	93			
(a) by Owners -	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	6	1	1	nil				nil	2	—		—		—	—	2	nil		nil	nil	nil	—	—	nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners -	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	6	1	1	nil	} nil	} No proceedings.	} nil	nil	nil	—		nil		—	1	9	nil	} None has been necessary.	nil	1	—	1	nil	1	—	nil	—	—	3	12			
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close -	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	6	1	1	nil				nil	nil	—		nil		—	1	9	nil		nil	1	—	1	nil	1	—	nil	—	—	—	—	—	3	12
B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—																																						
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied -	2	18	5	nil	9	54	39	nil	54	97	} nil	} No proceedings.	70	26	25	5	} nil		68	—	472	nil	} None has been necessary.	3	nil	6	—	3	nil	2	17	84	9	124	596			
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	2	16	4	nil	7	21	39	nil	46	58			70	15	25	} 4			} 50	} 88	nil	} None has been necessary.		3	nil	6	—	3	nil	2	14	84	} 9	} 121	} 479			
(a) by Owners -	nil	nil	1	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil			nil	nil	—			nil			nil			nil	—	—	nil	nil	—	nil	—							
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners -	nil	nil	1	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	} nil	} No proceedings.	nil	nil	—	} 4			} 50	} 88	nil			nil	nil	—	—	nil	nil	—	nil	—						
C—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909—																																						
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders -	6	8	4	nil	5	10	nil	nil	nil	1	} nil	} None were considered necessary.	1	} nil	} nil	} nil	1		9	—	45	nil	} None has been necessary.	8	1	—	—	nil	nil	} No steps were taken owing to the very acute house shortage in the district.	nil	1	} nil	} 10	} 55			
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made -	6	8	3	nil	5	2	nil	nil	nil	1			1				1		9	—	36	nil		8	1	—	—	nil	nil		nil	1						
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit -	1	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	2	nil	nil			nil					—	1	4	nil	2		nil	—	—	nil	nil	nil		1							
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made -	nil	nil	3	nil	1	nil	nil	nil	nil	} nil	} None were considered necessary.	} nil	nil	} nil	} nil	} nil	nil		—	—	4	nil	} None has been necessary.	1	nil	—	—	nil	nil	} No steps were taken owing to the very acute house shortage in the district.	nil	nil	} nil	} 1	} 5			
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders -	nil	nil	4	nil	1	nil	nil	nil	nil				nil				nil		—	2	7	nil		nil	nil	—	—	nil	nil		nil	nil						

† This does not include inspections made, where no action resulted. † New houses erected—By private persons—Cottages, 4—Bungalows, 3—Railway carriages converted, 2, Total 9. x Plus 13 Railway carriage dwellings. Work on the way.
A 6 built privately. * With the assistance of Converted Army Huts. † Including Army Huts converted into Bungalows

